

Remarks

I. Terminal Disclaimer.

Applicants are in the process of preparing a Terminal Disclaimer in the present application relative to co-owned, related U.S. Patent No. 6,633,772, and co-owned, related application, USSN: 10/460,557, now allowed. Applicants will forward the Terminal Disclaimer to the Examiner as soon as it is prepared.

II. Information Disclosure Statement.

An Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) accompanies this preliminary amendment. The IDS includes a modified form 1449. Copies of the cited references are of record in parent applications U.S. application Serial No. 10/460,557 12 June, 2003, now allowed, and U.S. application Serial No. 09/927,583 filed 10 August 2001, now U.S. Patent No. 6,633,772. Accordingly, new copies of the cited references are not being provided (see, 37 C.F.R. §1.98(d)). Applicants request that the Examiner indicate that the references have been considered by initialing each cited reference on the modified form 1449 and returning a copy of the initialed form to the applicants.

III. Second Preliminary Amendment

Applicants are in the process of preparing a second preliminary amendment comprising amendments to the claims. If the Examiner is prepared to issue a first action in this case before receipt of the second preliminary amendment, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the undersigned before issuing such first action.

Conclusion

Please direct all further communications in this application to:

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Telephone: 650-369-4300
Facsimile: 650-599-3913.

If the Examiner notes any further matters that the Examiner believes may be expedited by a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at (650) 599-3591.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 8 April 2004

By: Gary R. Fabian
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Agent for Applicants